

Cuore: The Heart of a Boy (UNESCO Collection of Representative Works: European)

By Edmondo de Amicis

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Representing the *Huckleberry Finn* of Italy, this is the most read classic in the country. Presented in the form of a diary, its subject is a young boy's life in Turin following Unification in 1870. The narrator, Enrico, writes vividly of school life and the bustling city of vegetable-sellers, chimney sweeps, and carpenters all around him. Like Huck Finn or Dickens, *Cuore* has been adapted into just about every conceivable medium—films, major television series, radio adaptations, plays, and even comic books. It is a set text on courses from University College London to Harvard and is even a cult classic in Japan in its incarnation as an anime film. From Henry Miller, who wrote a glowing monograph on the book, to world-famous tenor Andrea Bocelli, who wrote a song about it, this simple tale of childhood has inspired all kinds of people and continues to do so today.

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
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- Rank: #277718 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Peter Owen Ltd
- Published on: 2005-05-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .80" w x 5.00" l, .61 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages

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Editorial Review

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Italian

About the Author

Edmondo de Amicis was born in Piedmont in 1846, at a time when Italy lay dismembered. A soldier by profession, he spent much of his youth fighting for a united Italy. An admirer of the writer Alessandro Manzoni, who considered that Florentine should be the standard Italian language, he wrote only in Florentine Italian. With the huge success of *Cuore* he achieved his goal of having had—through his novel's central place on the school syllabus—a formative influence on the written language of modern Italy.

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